REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Allowable Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-7 have again been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over the "admitted prior art" (APA) in view of Noah et al. It is nonetheless respectfully submitted that the claims define over this prior art.

Applicants wish to thank examiner Hamo for the courtesy of an interview on October 29, 2007 at which time the outstanding rejection was discussed. As a result of this discussion, the examiner indicated that the outstanding rejection based on the APA and Noah et al would be withdrawn.

As was explained in the last response, Claim 1 is based upon the recognition that the flow control valve will cause the high pressure returning oil to disproportionately strike the inner wall of the bypass passage or suction passage at one circumferential portion in preference to another. Therefore, the corrosion-proof member 9 extends over less than half of the circumference of the passage (the bypass passage 29 in Figure 11), and is located at a circumferential position to face the returning flow of oil. On the other hand, a gap or discontinuity 180 of Noah et al has a small circumferential extent and is limited to a size required to permit compression of the tubular passage liner 112 so that it can be inserted into the passage 104 (column 6, lines 7-28). Thus Noah et al could not suggest modifying the APA such that the *tubular* liner therein is reduced to a corrosion-proof member which extends over less than half of the circumference of the passage and is circumferentially positioned to face the returning flow of oil.

In response, the outstanding Office Action (p. 5) has asserted that "further up from the discontinuity 180 of Noah, namely above the clips 204 and 206, if a cross section is to be taken, the liner would extend over significantly less than half of the suction passage."

However, as was discussed during the interview, the suction passage 104 of Noah et al terminates at the location of its joinder with the cylindrical rotor cavity 58, i.e., at the location of its intersection with the surface 160 in Fig. 3. If one were to view the outlet of the suction passage 104 from the right in Fig. 3 of Noah et al, the circumference of the liner 112 is significantly less than a half of a circle because the circumference of the passage itself at the location of that section is significantly less than a half of a circle. However the circumference of the liner 112 is coextensive with the passage. This will be true regardless of the location of the sectional plane along the length of the passage (except at the gap 180). That is, the liner 112 is *coextensive with* – not less than half of -- the suction passage 104 "in a circumferential direction of a center line in a cross section which intersects said center line of" the suction passage 104 at right angles.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early notice of allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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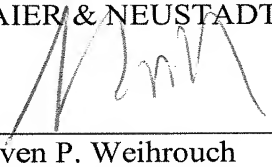
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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